



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001, Sol Plaatje House, 222 Struben Street, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa

Enquiries: Mr Leonard Mudau
Tel: 012 357 4192
Email: mudau.l@dbe.gov.za

**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SECTIONS
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION SECTIONS
UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
UMALUSI
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION BOARD (IEB)
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATIONS
SOUTH AFRICAN COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE (SACAI)
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (SGB) ASSOCIATIONS NATIONAL
TEACHER ORGANISATIONS**

CIRCULAR S13 OF 2025: ON COMPULSORY INCLUSION OF MATHEMATICS AS A CORE SUBJECT WITHIN THE PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADES 10-12

1. The Department has noted with concern reports of schools that do not provide a choice for Core subjects.
2. The National Senior Certificate (NSC) is a qualification at NQF Level 4 on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework (GFETQSF) of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).
3. The NSC is registered as a qualification with a minimum of 130 credits. The qualification is registered as a whole qualification, as it is not based on unit standards. The outcomes of the qualification are further defined in the curriculum. A minimum of seven subjects is required for successful completion of the qualification. The weighting of the seven subjects varies, with six subjects with 20 credits each and one subject with 10 credits (Life Orientation).

4. The approved NSC qualification subjects are listed in the *National Policy pertaining to Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement, Grades R-12* and *Regulations pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12, published as Government Notice 1114 in Government Gazette No. 36041 of 28 December 2012*, as amended. Learners in the FET phase follow either the academic (general) or technical pathway and must offer four subjects from **Group A (Core)** and three subjects from **Group B (Electives)**.
- 4.1 Two official languages selected from Annexure B, provided that one of the two official languages is offered on the Home Language level, and the other, on either Home or First Additional Language level, and provided further that one of the two languages is the language of learning and teaching.
- 4.2 Deaf learners may, select South African Sign Language at Home Language level.
- 4.3 Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy for the Academic (General) pathway, or Mathematics or Technical Mathematics for the Technical pathway.
- 4.4 Life Orientation
5. This **Circular S13 of 2025** issues directives for schools on their obligation to make provision for either Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy to enable learners to exercise choice except in cases where a school provides a special focus such as Technical pathway or Mathematics and Sciences as per prescripts of both Policy and Regulations in the National Curriculum Statement.

Sincerely



DR G WHITTLE
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL
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